Kokrajhar railway stations in Assam have no adequate arrangements of potable water and as a result thereof passengers have to face great difficulties;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any scheme for providing potable water on the said railway stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Drinking water facilities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled has already been provided at all stations.

Installation of High Tech Radar in A.P.

989. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether high-tech radar was installed at Begumpet airport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose therefor;

(c) if so, whether by setting up this radar the Government will be in a position to detect the alien aircraft;

(d) whether any other airports have been provided with such facilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all the airports are likely to be provided with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) and Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) have been commissioned in September, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Airport Surveillance Radar will detect any aircraft flying within 60 nautical miles radius. The Secondary Surveillance Radar can detect aircraft equipped with transponders within 250 nautical miles radius.

(d) and (e) ASR/MSSR facilities have been commissioned at Thiruvananthapuram airport. This equipment is being installed at Delhi, Guwahati, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay airports and will be commissioned during the period March 1997 to August, 1997.

Modernisation of Barddhaman Railway Station

990. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for modernisation and expansion of Barddhaman Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Works of remodelling of yard, replacement of indoor and outdoor signalling gears, computerisation of passenger reservation system, provision of battery charging facilities, extension/ provision of shed on various platforms, improvements to lighting, provision of additional tube well and provision of train indicator board have been taken up at Barddhaman railway station.

Construction of Overbridge at Level Crossings

991. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the level crossings on NH 17 at Muzhappilangad, Nadal And Chovva in Cannanore district of Kerala create bottlenecks for the road transport causing undue delay and wastage of time of passengers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to construct over bridges at above crossings;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for construction of overbridges at above crossings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Kerala State Governments was advised to sponsor the proposal required under extant rules, which is still awaited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Prasar Bharati Bill

992. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Broadcasting Authority in order to streamline the functioning of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have discussed the recommendations of the Expert Group constituted for the Prasar Bharati Bill with various Political Parties/ State Governments;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.